

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, IATTC

SUBJECT:IATTC CONSERVATION REGIME FOR 1978

REF: STATE 028978

1. POSTS ARE AWARE(REFTEL) THAT MEMBER NATIONS OF IATTC HAD
BEEN UNABLE TO AGREEON 1978 CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR YEL-
LOWFIN TUNA, AND THAT IT HAD BEEN THE CASE
MAINLY BECAUSE THE U.S. HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO AGREE TO
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COSTA RICA'S REQUEST REGARDING ITS SPECIAL CLOSED SEASON
ALLOCATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING THIS BILATERALLY AND
HAVE INFORMALLY REACHED AGREEMENT WITH COSTA RICA ON ITS
ALLOCATION. IT WAS AGREED AT LAST MEETING OF IATTC THAT IF
U.S. AND COSTA RICA COULD AGREE ON ALLOCATION FORMULA,
AGREEMENT BY OTHER MEMBER NATIONS WOULD BE SOUGHT THROUGH
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RESOLUTION WHICH IS BEING PROPOSED FOR AGREEMENT ON 1978 ALLOCATION PROGRAM: BEGIN TEXT ... PROPOSAL FOR THE 1978 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IN LIEU OF ITEMS 7 AND 9 IN THE 1977 IATTC RESOLUTION:)

7. PERMIT DURING THE CLOSED SEASON FOR 1978:

(A) (1) THE FLAG VESSELS OF PANAMA, AND NICARAGUA, WHICH BECAUSE OF CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS SIZE, GEAR, OR FISHING TECHNIQUES, PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEMS, TO FISH UNRESTRICTED FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA UNTIL 6,000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA ARE TAKEN BY SUCH VESSELS OF EACH COUNTRY.

(2) THE FLAG VESSELS OF COSTA RICA, BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES SIMILAR TO THOSE REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 7(A) (1), TO FISH UNRESTRICTED FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA UNTIL 7,500 TONS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA ARE TAKEN BY SUCH VESSELS.

(3) THOSE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE COMMISSION REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS 7(A)(1) OR 7(A)(2) WHICH ARE DEVELOPING NATIONS WHOSE FISHERIES ARE IN AN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND WHICH HAVE THE POSSIBILITY DURING 1978 OF ACQUIRING ONE OR MORE FISHING VESSELS THAT PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF THE SIZE, GEAR AND FISHING TECHNIQUES, TO REQUEST THROUGH THE COMMISSION A STUDY OF THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM AND A RECOMMENDATION FOR A

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SOLUTION. UNLESS ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS EXPRESS AGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSED SOLUTION, SUCH GOVERNMENT SHALL, JOINTLY OR INDIVIDUALLY, BY THE SAME AGENCY, REQUEST A MEETING OF A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WITH THE PURPOSE OF FINDING A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. BOTH CONSULTATIONS MAY BE TRANSMITTED TELEGRAPHICALLY TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND THEIR REPLY SHALL BE TRANSMITTED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

(B) THE FLAG VESSELS OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION NOT REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 7(A) WHICH ARE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WHOSE FISHERIES ARE IN THE EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT (THAT IS, WHOSE TUNA CATCH IN THE CONVENTION AREA IN 1970 DID NOT EXCEED 12,000 SHORT TONS AND WHOSE TOTAL FISH CATCH IN 1969 DID NOT EXCEED 400,000 METRIC TONS) WHICH, BECAUSE OF CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS SIZE, GEAR, OR FISHING TECHNIQUES, PRESENT SPECIAL PROBLEMS, TO FISH UNRESTRICTED FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA UNTIL THE AGGREGATE CATCH OF YELLOWFIN TUNA BY SUCH MEMBER COUNTRIES TAKEN DURING ALL OF 1978 REACHES 26,500 TONS.

(C) THE FLAG VESSELS OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION NOT REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 7(A) OR 7(B) WHICH ARE LESS THAN 400 SHORT TONS CAPACITY, OR WHICH ENTERED THE YELLOWFIN FISHERY PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1960, TO FISH UNRESTRICTED UNTIL 6,000 SHORT TONS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA ARE TAKEN BY SUCH VESSELS OF EACH COUNTRY OR TO FISH FOR YELLOWFIN UNDER SUCH RESTRICTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO LIMIT THE CATCH

OF YELLOWFIN TUNA BY SUCH VESSELS OF EACH COUNTRY TO 6,000 SHORT TONS.

THE VESSELS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 7(A), 7(B), AND 7(C) SHALL BE PERMITTED TO LAND AN INCIDENTAL CATCH OF YELLOWFIN TUNA TAKEN IN THE CATCH OF OTHER SPECIES IN THE CYRA ON UNCLASSIFIED

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EACH TRIP COMMENCED AFTER THE AMOUNTS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS 7(A)(1), 7(B), AND 7(C) HAVE BEEN CAUGHT. THE VESSELS WHICH SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH FISHING AND THE AMOUNT EACH VESSEL IS PERMITTED TO LAND AS AN INCIDENTAL CATCH SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH REGULATES THE FISHING ACTIVITIES OF SUCH VESSELS PROVIDED THAT THE AGGREGATE OF THE INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF YELLOWFIN TUNA TAKEN BY SUCH VESSELS OF EACH COUNTRY SO PERMITTED SHALL NOT EXCEED 15 OF THE TOTAL CATCH TAKEN BY SUCH VESSELS OF EACH COUNTRY DURING TRIPS COMMENCED AFTER THE AMOUNTS REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS 7(A)(L) 7(B), AND 7(C) HAVE BEEN CAUGHT... END TEXT.

3. POSTS SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF CONTENTS OF ABOVE RESOLUTION AND SEEK THEIR AGREEMENT ON PROPOSAL. THIS RESOLUTION IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS ONE PRESENTED BY THE U.S. AT MEETING OF IATTC IN SAN DIEGO, JANUARY 25-26. THE ONLY CHANGE WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IS IN THAT PART WHICH APPLIES SPECIFICALLY TO COSTA RICA. THOSE PARTS OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH APPLY TO OTHER NATIONS WERE AGREEABLE TO EACH OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN SAN DIEGO. THIS SPECIFICALLY APPLIES TO MEXICO, PANAMA, AND NICARAGUA WHICH ARE OTHER COUNTRIES NAMED IN RESOLUTION. ALL GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN SAN DIEGO, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COSTA RICA, WERE AGREEABLE TO PROPOSED RESOLUTION. WE ARE THUS ASSUMING THAT AGREEMENT ON TEXT PARA 2 CAN BE READILY OBTAINED. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE SINCE THE IATTC SCIENTIFIC STAFF MUST ACT QUICKLY IN ORDER TO CLOSE THE FISHING SEASON SO THAT OVERFISHING DOES NOT OCCUR. DEPT. HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH DR. JOSEPH, DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS OF THE IATTC, WHO IS AWAITING U.S. ADVICE REGARDING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THIS PROPOSED RESOLUTION SO THAT HE UNCLASSIFIED

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CAN INCORPORATE IT INTO OVERALL COMMISSION RESOLUTION, WHICH INCLUDES OTHER PROVISIONS REGARDING CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY FOR 1978. JOSEPH THEN MUST OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON THIS RESOLUTION FROM EACH NATION'S APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS. HE IS ANXIOUS TO DO THIS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

4. DURING THE COURSE OF THE LAST IATTC MEETING THE IATTC

SCIENTIFIC STAFF DISCUSSED WITH THE MEMBER NATIONS THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING A SMALL AREA OF THE IATTC REGULATORY AREA TO UNRESTRICTED FISHING ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS DURING 1978 IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FISHING EFFORT AND THUS ESTABLISH WHETHER YELLOWFIN AND SKIPJACK TUNA OCCUR THERE. DR. JOSEPH OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING AREAS WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE OPENED FOR THIS PURPOSE: 30°S 9°W; 1°S 9°W; 12°S 85°W; 15°S 85°W; 15°S 80°W; 30°S 80°W; 30°S 90°W.

THE U.S. IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF OPENING THIS AREA FOR 1978, AND POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT U.S. WILL BE RECOMMENDING TO DR. JOSEPH THAT HE INCLUDE IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON WHICH HE WILL BE SEEKING AGREEMENT, THE OPENING OF THIS AREA AS WAS SUGGESTED AT MOST RECENT COMMISSION MEETING, AND ALSO THAT EXPERIMENTAL AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN OPENED IN PREVIOUS YEARS REMAIN OPEN DURING 1978 AS WELL.

5. A THIRD ISSUE WHICH POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO RAISE CONCERNS A 1,000 TON SPECIAL ALLOCATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON PORPOISE. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE COMMISSION HAS PERMITTED U.S. VESSELS TO ENGAGE IN RESEARCH ON THE REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTAL PORPOISE MORTALITY BY TAKING 1,000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN DURING THE CLOSED SEASON. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT U.S. WILL BE RECOMMENDING TO DR. JOSEPH THAT HE ONCE AGAIN INCLUDE IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION PROVISION FOR THIS RESEARCH.

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6. FINALLY, PLEASE SEEK HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AGREEMENT TO HAVE INCLUDED IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION THE PROVISIONS ON ENFORCEMENT WHICH HAVE BEEN A PART OF IATTC RESOLUTION FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 14 AND 15 OF 1977 RESOLUTION. VANCE

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